

DROWNED GIRL'S KIN SURE DEATH WAS ACCIDENT

Body of Miss Harris, Found
in River, Bears No Trace
of Violence.

DECKER WILL BE FREED

His Failure to Tell of Tragedy
Still Puzzles Friends
of Victim.

Within sound of the rushing water of the dam on Pompton Lake, over which, Sunday night, Mabel Harris of Pompton went to her death, the many members of the Harris family clustered on the lawn in front of the old white house where they live, and discussed all day yesterday the tragedy that had come to them.

From time to time some neighbor brought a copy of an evening paper and they eagerly scanned the columns describing the details of the strange affair. The burden of their talk, from the old mother to the seven brothers of the dead girl, was that the thing was an accident, and that Mabel's sweetheart, Lester Decker, who went canoeing with her the fatal night, who supposedly went over the dam with her, and whose strange conduct in concealing the fact of the accident and of Mabel's disappearance until Monday night has been the subject of great suspicion on the part of the authorities, was entirely innocent.

The mother refused to talk to reporters, ordering them from the place and declaring that "the Prosecutor told her to say nothing," but her brother, A. H. Storms, followed them from the place and assured them repeatedly that the family was convinced that there had been no foul play.

Believes Decker's Story.

"I was upset in a boat on that lake with three girls," he said. "I saved them, but if one of them had gone over the dam I'd have been in the same fix Decker is now."

By noon today young Decker will probably be free. County Prosecutor Michael Dunn, County Physician Robert Armstrong, Assistant Prosecutor Milton Force and the county detectives who have been investigating the girl's death have come to the same conclusion as that of her family, and at a conference last night they decided on his release from the Pompton county jail at least from the Pompton county jail since Monday night as a material witness.

The prosecutor, declaring that there was no evidence on which to hold the boy, said that he would appear in the City Court of Paterson this morning and ask Magistrate Frank Ramano for the discharge. Yesterday afternoon, he drove out to the Harris home and told them that in his opinion Decker was guilty of nothing worse than hiding the fact of Mabel's death through fright.

"There would be no trial," he said afterward to reporters. "There is nothing to base a trial on."

Why did Dunn tell so many conflicting stories? Mr. Dunn was asked. "Why did he say at one time, when questioned by Chief of Police Maguire, that he and Mabel Harris had been canoeing on the shores of the lake above the dam and went to sleep and he was only awakened to find himself struggling alone in the water?" he asked.

Another time that they carelessly drifted too near the dam and went over; at another time another version?

Boy Aided Strangely.

"And how could any man, knowing his friend was probably drowned, go to his mother's house where he was boarded, and calmly take off his wet clothes and go to bed in the room with her brother, as Decker did, without saying one word—and go to work the next day still keeping silence?"

The boy was panic stricken, the Prosecutor replied. "That is all there was to it."

Stories buzzed about the place yesterday about a quarrel between Mabel and her father, who was over 20 years of age—had on Sunday evening just after Decker went to the Adams Sanitarium, where the girl was employed as a waitress, to take her for their outing.

Helen Williams, her best friend, who also worked at the sanitarium, told of the quarrel. Helen and her sweetheart were of the party that strolled away from the sanitarium toward the dam, and she declared afterward that Mabel reproached Lester for something he had done and had not done the preceding night, that they "hit each other" and had some words. However, the quarrel doesn't seem to have been serious, for the two soon patched it up and took the canoe. Helen and her friend decided that they preferred a longer walk to going boating.

Decker declared positively that there was no quarrel, and in the hour he has spent in the jail he has muttered over and over: "I didn't drown Mabel. I didn't drown Mabel."

His story is that on "coming to" and finding himself struggling in the waters of the Ramapo below the dam, Mabel had disappeared. He had "a hard struggle," he says, to get to land; as soon as he succeeded he ran up and down the shores, calling, "Mabel, where are you?" At last, he says, he found her in the river and went to bed, hoping that in some way the girl had got out and had returned to the sanitarium.

It was not till next day, when the sanitarium doctor telephoned to ask why Mabel hadn't come to work, that Mrs. Harris, struck with fear, sent for the Chief of Police and Decker was confronted with questioning and broke down and told the story. Then at once the search was begun, and the river below the dam and the lake above it were thoroughly dredged till, early yesterday morning, the body was discovered floating on the surface about half a mile below the dam.

Boys Aid in Search.

The work of dragging the lake and river was directed by Miss Harris's brothers, who used the effect of the long strand yesterday. "I haven't been in bed since Sunday night," the uncle, A. H. Storms, remarked, and that was true of all the family. Thirty Boy Scouts who are tenting on the shores of the lake helped in the search, as did a number of neighbors, and it was one of the latter, Edward Toms of Pompton, who found the body. His eye was caught by the girl's plaid dress as she floated slowly along the surface of the stream on whose bank she had doubtless played many times as a child, for she had lived in Pompton all of her short life.

Drawing the body ashore, Toms immediately notified the county authorities in Paterson, and the detectives and County Physician left for the scene. The body was taken to Richard's morgue at Riverdale, where the autopsy was held in the afternoon. It was a great relief to the mother, the Prosecutor said, when it

was decided that there were no marks on the body to show death by violence. Prosecutor Dunn said there were a few bruises on the body, but they were such as might have resulted from her being thrown against the rocks in the passage down the river. There was no water in the lungs, and this at first gave rise to the belief that death did not result from drowning. However, the Prosecutor said the girl probably fainted from fright before death came, and that this resulted in the closing of the air passages so that water couldn't penetrate to the lungs. She still wore the clothes in which she had been newly fitted up by Decker from the sanitarium, except that she had no shoes on. This corroborates Decker's story that before they lay down in the canoe they both took off their shoes to relieve their feet, weary with rambling in the woods.

Farmer Finds Canoe.

Three hundred yards below the dam the canoe was found a little later by Thomas Walker, a farmer—found aground, bottom up, on a rise in the middle of the river. The paddles such as might have resulted from her being thrown against the rocks in the passage down the river. There was no water in the lungs, and this at first gave rise to the belief that death did not result from drowning. However, the Prosecutor said the girl probably fainted from fright before death came, and that this resulted in the closing of the air passages so that water couldn't penetrate to the lungs. She still wore the clothes in which she had been newly fitted up by Decker from the sanitarium, except that she had no shoes on. This corroborates Decker's story that before they lay down in the canoe they both took off their shoes to relieve their feet, weary with rambling in the woods.

As it stands the happening is likely to remain a mystery, a gruesome mystery strangely out of tune with the lovely, smiling country around Pompton Lake. The mystery is not lessened by the fact that several fishermen, one of them an uncle of the girl, James Storms, were playing their sport Sunday night from the bridge across the road just below the dam, and all declare that they saw no canoe fall over it nor did they hear any sound of accident. However, the fishermen left the bridge about 1 o'clock Monday morning, and Edward Harris says it was near 2 when Decker returned to the house, so the tragedy may have happened after they wound up their lines and went home. Moreover, it was a moonless night, and it is possible that a small craft could slip over those rushing waters soundlessly and almost invisible to eyes a couple of hundred of feet down the stream.

Decker and Miss Harris were said to be very fond of each other and would, it was rumored, have been married before but that they lacked money. The young man had recently, however, been a job as chauffeur and the wedding was set for August 23.

TWO N. Y. DOCTORS KILLED.

Their Car Crashes Into Curb at Albany.

ALBANY, July 30.—Dr. Fred C. Myers of Albany and Dr. William P. Sweeney of Saratoga Springs were instantly killed in an automobile accident here today. A third occupant of the car named Murray was taken to a hospital suffering from serious injuries.

It is understood that some defect in the steering gear caused the car to get beyond control, causing it to run into a curb.

Dr. Myers was coroner's physician. Dr. Sweeney recently had returned from overseas, where he had served in the medical corps with the American Expeditionary Forces since 1917. Earlier in the war he was with the medical corps of the British army for a year. He was 28 years old.

TO BE WHITE HOUSE GUESTS.

Belgian Rulers Will Be Entertained There in October.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of Belgium will be guests at the White House during their visit to Washington this fall, probably in October.

Elaborate plans for their entertainment are being prepared by the State Department, but details have not yet been announced.

Ship Officers Win Pay Increase.

The Association of Masters and Licensed Deck Officers was notified yesterday of a new wage scale fixed for its members by the American Steamship Association and the United States Shipping Board. The masters will receive a 10 per cent. increase; first officers \$35 increase in monthly pay; second officers \$25 increase; third officers \$20 increase, and fourth officers \$15 increase. The steamship and the Shipping Board representatives are forming a new set of working regulations. Announcements will be made when they are completed.

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THE

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MINISTER BELIEVED DROWNED AT CONEY

Clothing of the Rev. Frank A.
Schubert Is Found in
Bathhouse.

ARMY HOSPITAL PATIENT

Young Cleric, Wounded and
Gassed, Was Convalescent—
Leaves War Bride Here.

Frank A. Schubert, an ordained minister of the Baptist Church, who has been in the army hospital in the Gun Hill road recovering from wounds received while with a hospital unit in France, is believed to have drowned Tuesday while swimming at Coney Island. Clothing he left in a booth at Stauch's baths at the foot of Stratton's walk was identified last night by his wife. He was not seen after leaving the bathhouse to enter the water. His body has not been recovered.

Schubert was an athlete. He first met his wife a year and a half ago while she was employed at a Coney Island bathhouse which he patronized daily. They were married just before he enlisted as a private in a medical unit and sailed for France.

Schubert returned from France in November as a convalescent. He had been wounded in the right leg by shrapnel and gassed. He had been retained at the hospital as a patient but his general condition had been so good that he had been free practically to come and go as he pleased. He wore clerical garb.

The fact that he walked with a limp and had to use a cane did not keep Schubert from the water. He started for the beach Tuesday after making an appointment with his wife to meet him at 5:30 in the afternoon near Stauch's.

He obtained two bathing suits. After putting the first on he called John Krenner, the head attendant, and said that a seam had ripped. Another suit was given him. Apparently he put both suits on. Neither was found in the bath booth with his clothing.

The talk about the suits caused Krenner to remember Schubert. The attendant said that Schubert appeared to be in excellent spirits. He smilingly explained that the injured leg, which lamed him in walking, was no hindrance to swimming.

Mrs. Schubert waited for her husband for several hours when he failed to keep his appointment to meet at 9 o'clock Tuesday night. His absence worried her, but she returned to her flat at 147 West 107th street hopeful that he had been caused by some matter of army discipline.

Attendants at Stauch's discovered Schubert's clothing when they closed the baths for the night. The clothing was turned over to the Coney Island police yesterday morning and a search begun along the beach for the body. The missing man left a watch, jewelry and what appears to be a substantial roll of bills in an envelope at the office of the bathhouse. In his clothing were two Bibles, in which his name was followed by the address of his wife.

Schubert had had no pastorate as a minister. His clerical connection was with the American Rescue Workers, a Philadelphia Baptist organization. The organization has a local office in 205 East Sixth street.

Schubert was 29 years old. His wife, Sophia, is 23. She was highly nervous when she visited the Coney Island police station and the police found it impossible to get details of her own and her husband's past lives. Her thoughts appeared to be dominated by the fact that a warning against her husband's fondness for swimming had come to him in a dream.

"One day about two weeks ago my husband told me of a terrible dream of the night before," Mrs. Schubert said. "He dreamed that he had been drowned, and he asked me to keep near him when we went into the water again."

Boy Says Police Beat Him.

John McDonough, 18, arraigned in Yorkville Court, repudiated yesterday a statement of the police offered by detectives saying he signed it under compulsion and only to make the officers stop beating him. The boy is charged with stealing three bags of sugar valued at \$300 from the cellar of the Phoenix Produce Company of 347 East Thirty-third street, operating alone. Magistrate Cobb directed him held in \$2,000 bail while the Grand Jury investigates.

PRISON FOR POLICE IN ELECTION CASES

New Trials Denied to Philadelphia
Conspirators.

PHILADELPHIA, July 30.—The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania refused today to entertain an appeal for a new trial for the convicted policemen in the Fifth Ward election conspiracy case, and unless counsel contemplates some further legal action the men will have to surrender within ten days to undergo their sentences.

The appeal was taken from the decision of the Superior Court, which had sustained the men's conviction in Chester county, whether the case was taken on a change of venue.

The defendants are Lieut. David Bennett, sentenced to eighteen months and \$500 fine; Patrolmen John Wirtzschatter, Michael Murphy, Emanuel Uram, Louis Feldman, one year and \$400 fine, and Clarence Hayden, six months and \$200 fine.

The case grew out of an election contest for leadership in September, 1917. There was much disorder and one policeman was killed by a member of a gang brought from New York. The slayer is serving fifteen years in the penitentiary, and other members of the gang shorter terms. Isaac Deutsch, head of one faction, was also convicted of conspiracy, but died recently.

SOLDIER DECLINES OFFICE.

Major Stone, Famous Jersey
Fighter, Starts Politician.

BURLINGTON, N. J., July 30.—"I feel I am not fitted to be a Senator and it is my belief that any service man who tries because of his war record to be elected to a private in a medical unit and the non-qualifications makes a regrettable mistake. We did not go into the war to win personal political preferment."

This is the comment of Major Edward B. Stone, South Jersey's most famous war hero, who led the Old Third Regiment in its charge against the Prussian Guard in the Argonne, setting at rest reports that politicians have been boasting him for a State Senatorship. The Major's refusal of the opportunity to be elected by the lawmakers defeats the efforts of both parties to land him as a candidate.

Although nominally a Republican, both parties in the county attempted to get him as a candidate for sheriff next year, almost as soon as he returned from the war and there is little doubt but that he can have a double nomination for that office without opposition if he wants it.

SAVES NORTH SHORE TROLLEYS

Stanley Pays Out \$5,000 to Repair
Storm Damage.

Because of damage done to the New York and North Shore Traction Company's trolley lines in the storm Monday it was feared that traffic would have to be suspended. John Moran, general superintendent of the company, said yesterday that George A. Stanley, president of the company, had agreed to pay for his own pocket the expense of making the repairs, which will amount to more than \$5,000.

For several months the company has been endeavoring to get permission from the Board of Estimate and Public Service Commission to increase the fare within the city of New York from 5 to 7 cents, but every move has been unsuccessful. Mr. Stanley offered a month ago to pay the amount required to increase the pay of motormen and conductors.

MOTHER'S SLAYER ENDS LIFE.

Convicted Son Escapes From Jail
and Hangs Himself.

KELLOGG, IOWA, July 30.—Roy Emerson of Creston, Iowa, recently convicted of murdering his mother, early this morning escaped from guards who were taking him to the Kingdon county jail at Mount Airy and committed suicide by hanging himself under a high-voltage bridge two miles north of here. He used his belt and a piece of barbed wire for a rope.

Emerson, accused of beating his mother to death with an iron brace and throwing her body down an elevator shaft in their undertaking establishment at Creston last May was convicted of second degree murder at Mount Airy on July 19.

League Indorsement in Spain.

MADRID, July 30.—The Foreign Minister introduced a bill in the Senate yesterday empowering the Government to adhere to the League of Nations and the International labor agreement as incorporated in the treaty of Versailles.

FORD'S UTTERANCES LIKE RED QUEEN'S

Parallel Ideas and Expressions
Found in Emma Goldman's
Writings.

PROFESSOR ADMITS IT

Automobile Man Cannot Read,
Charges Attorney, but
Counsel Deny It.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich., July 30.—Deadly parallels were read today in the Ford-Chicago Tribune \$1,000,000 libel suit by Elliott G. Stevenson, attorney for the defense. They were the utterances of Emma Goldman and utterances of Henry Ford.

William A. Dunning, professor emeritus of History and Political Science at Columbia University, was on the stand all day and admitted that there were many points of resemblance in the many ideas under consideration.

At one stage of cross-examining fact, Attorney Stevenson read passages without giving the author's name, and in several instances Prof. Dunning thought the writings attributed to Mr. Ford were those of Emma Goldman, whom he considered the world's foremost anarchist.

Points Out Similarities.

The witness said that Mr. Ford called his "slaughter." So did Emma Goldman. Ford was quoted as saying that "the world would cease when people refused to go to war to satisfy private greed. Emma Goldman said people ought to refuse to go to war at the behest of their rulers. She also called the professional soldier a murderer, while Ford was quoted as saying that the word "murderer" should be embroidered across the breast of every soldier.

Miss Goldman said war was wholesale murder; Ford was quoted as saying that men praised the wholesale murderer and punished the retail murderer. Miss Goldman said wars were incited by business men seeking gains; Ford was quoted as saying that "two classes benefit by war, the munition makers and the money lenders."

Goldman ridiculed training camps and uniforms and Ford was quoted as doing the same.

Prof. Dunning admitted without hesitation that in some of his adhesions to war Goldman and Ford agree, although he had given expert testimony Tuesday that some of Ford's expressions precluded his being classed as an anarchist. "In their attitude toward the Government, however," said the witness, "their rules are radically different," and added:

"Not all of Emma Goldman's writings are characteristically anarchistic. She is a very competent literary critic, and in her writings on that subject she may be considered as knowing what she says."

Attorney Stevenson selected portions of the writings of Kropotkin, Tolstoy and Tucker, the latter a well known American anarchist writer, and asked the witness to differentiate between them and expressions credited to Henry Ford. The witness recognized many points of similarity.

Tolstoy Paragraph Surprises.

One paragraph credited to Tolstoy aroused accusations by Ford counsel that Mr. Stevenson was using deception. Alfred Lucking and Mr. Murphy both declared it was impossible that Tolstoy could have written this, because he never was in America; but Mr. Stevenson calmly told them to look on page 253 of Tolstoy's essays and letters, which reads:

"But they will not—these politicians. They insist on governing us and living off our labor. They tax us, eat our substance, conscript us, draft our boys into their war. All the myriads of men who live off the Government depend upon the Government to tax us."

"In order to tax us successfully standing armies are maintained. The plea that the army is needed for the protection of the country is pure fraud and pretence. The French Government affrights the people by telling them that the Germans are ready and anxious to fall upon them; the Russians fear the British, the British fear everybody, and now in America we are told that we must increase our navy and add to our army because Europe may at any time combine against us."

Mr. Stevenson again brought in a reference to Mr. Ford's literacy, which he touched upon in examining the plaintiff. It came up, in connection with Tucker, an American anarchist writer, who was said to have passed most of his life in the practice of law, because he could not make his books pay.

"There are a great many anarchists in the United States, aren't there?" asked Mr. Stevenson, referring to the market for the books.

"Yes, but they cannot all read," said Dr. Dunning.

"Neither can Henry Ford," said Mr. Stevenson.

"That is an outrageous statement," cried Mr. Lucking. "It is untrue," shouted Mr. Murphy. "We ask your Honor to instruct the jury to disregard the remark."

"You cannot disregard the testimony," declared Mr. Stevenson. "Mr. Ford said to let it stand like that rather than read before the jury."

Seeks Masses' Betterment.

"Now, professor," said Mr. Stevenson, "the things that you consider essential in the anarchistic creed are things that were designed by those who advocate them sincerely to promote the betterment of the masses of wage earners. That is a contention of anarchists, is it not?"

"That is their claim."

"And haven't they held that no man ought to work more than four or five hours a day to get what he needed?"

"That is a general idea of anarchists."

"That the condition of the masses of people should be improved is believed in by a great majority of the people, is it not?"

"Yes, some by violence, some by education and other people in other methods but they all desire the accomplishment of that end," asked Mr. Stevenson.

"The general desire is to benefit mankind."

"Christians do that."

"Yes, and heathens and pagans and infidels and atheists."

"What heathens and pagans are you talking about? In the United States?"

"Oh, lots of them."

"Where?"

"There must be a lot of them in Detroit."

"You must be in New York?"

"Loads of them in Columbia University."

"In Columbia University?"

"A pagan or two."

"A lot of men were discharged for disloyalty in Columbia University."

"They are not there now."

"Doesn't Christianity teach that the condition of the people should be made more comfortable and better, to enjoy life better?"

"I always understood that the idea of Christianity was generally to prepare people to have a better time in a future world, without reference to their condition in this world."

I. R. T. DENIES IT IS OVERCAPITALIZED

Sets Forth Reasons for Seeking
Increased Fare in Letter
to Mayor Hylan.

CITY CONTRACT "FAIR"

B. R. T. Announces Further
Abolition of Transfers
on August 1.

Replying to an address of Mayor Hylan at the transfer protest hearing in Brooklyn on Tuesday night, in which he said that the transit companies admit that many of the ills they complain of are their own creation, and overcapitalization is one of them, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company wrote him yesterday to deny that this company was overcapitalized. It also declared that the question of capitalization had no bearing on the present problem.

It was decided that the reasons for asking an increased fare were so the company might keep faith with those who had furnished capital to make the subway self-supporting, thus strengthening the city's credit; also relieve the city from an added tax burden necessary to pay the interest on money borrowed for subway purposes.

The letter defended the contract between the Interborough and the city as being eminently fair and declared that an added fare could not profit the company other than to give it its money immediately without having to wait and get it later with compound interest.

Turning Back of Lines.

In response to the suggestion of the Mayor that the companies might turn back the lines to the city, if they could not operate them at a profit, the Interborough said to him:

"There are three observations to be made upon the foregoing:

"First—If the operating companies were to offer to return the subway to the city, the city could not take them back; for the city has neither the money nor the available credit to finance the project.

"Second—But even if it had the credit it could not escape paying the higher wages and higher costs of materials and supplies that are the sole cause of the present emergency, and it would, therefore, have to increase the fare or pay the deficits by additional taxation.

"The rapid transit act contemplates the utility being self-supporting from fares, and the proposition to retain the 5 cent fare and make up deficits by taxation is directly contrary to the expressed spirit of the act.

"Third—To throw over the operating companies the burden of the fare as voters of ever, in better times, recouping the losses they have sustained due to war time prices.

"To summarize, the proposition to turn back the lines to the city is a question of municipal operation. That is impossible at present for both legal and financial reasons.

"2. It is not a question of overcapitalization. There is none.

"3. It is a question of acting in the public's best interest by:

"(a) Paying the cost of the service in a way to make the city's huge investment an asset instead of a loss, and

"(b) Of preserving the city's good faith and of strengthening its credit."

More Transfers Abolished.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company yesterday filed with the Public Service Commission the following announcement of the abolition on August 1 of the following transfer privileges between elevated and surface lines, in addition to those already named:

"From the Fifth Avenue elevated to the Fifth Avenue trolley at Thirty-sixth street, from the Lorimer Gates Prospect, Nostrand-Prospect and Tompkins Avenue lines to the Brighton Beach elevated line at Prospect Park station.

"Transfers between the Brighton Beach elevated line and the Flatbush Avenue surface line will be restricted to use for a continuous trip in one general direction, and the present time possible to reverse direction on such transfers."

FIREMEN FIGHT SHIP BLAZES.

Two Vessels Docked Off Brooklyn
Are Drenched.

Two fires within thirty minutes on ships docked off Brooklyn yesterday afternoon gave the waterfront firemen a lively battle. The steamship Maraval of the Trinidad Line, lying at the foot of Amity street, took fire in her forward hatch, endangering a general cargo, including some wine for South America. So much water was poured into the hold that the ship listed away from the pier and seemed about to turn over. Lines were strung to the pier to hold her in position.

Before the fire apparatus could return to the station houses an alarm from the fire department, and the ship of the Gowanus Bay, about a mile distant, was flashed in. They found a hundred foot oil barge, newly built for the Standard Oil Company, afire in dry dock and fire rapidly eating away at piles of lumber on the bulkhead alongside. The sparks were